NEWS ADVISORY

GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK STATE OF MONTANA

CONTACT: Mike Wessler, 444-9725

Bullock Declares Fire Emergency for 31 Montana Counties

Helena - Monday, Governor Steve Bullock declared a fire emergency for 31 western and southwestern Montana counties. The declaration came due to hazardous wildland fire conditions throughout these counties.

This declaration allows Bullock to mobilize state resources and the Montana National Guard, as well as expending funds to meet the contingencies and needs that may arise from the emergency.

"This emergency situation requires all hands on deck," said Bullock of the emergency declaration. "Our first priority is ensuring the safety of all Montanans, including our firefighters. This declaration will give the ability to use additional resources to assist in this effort."

The counties covered under the declaration are Treasure, Yellowstone, Musselshell, Big Horn, Carbon, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, Lincoln, Flathead, Lake, Sanders, Broadwater, Meagher, Cascade, Teton, Pondera, Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Park, Gallatin, Madison, Beaverhead, Silver Bow, Deer Lodge, Granite, Ravalli, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Powell and Missoula.

On Monday afternoon, Bullock met with department heads from several land management agencies about the fires. He also joined several state officials in an evening flight to survey the Lolo fire and the damage it has caused.

The emergency declaration can be found at: http://governor.mt.gov/docs/EO-8-2013 Montana Wildfire Emergency.pdf